



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

SMOKE ADVISORY

Valid Monday September 14, 2020 through Tuesday September 15, 2020

This advisory is in effect through Tuesday afternoon. South Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes available.

Two major local wildfires as well as wildfires in Northern and Central California are affecting air quality in the region. A wildfire named the Bobcat Fire is burning north of Azusa and Monrovia in the Angeles National Forest. As of 8:00 AM on Monday, the burn area was approximately 33,312 acres with 6% containment. Current information on the Bobcat Fire can be found on the Incident Information System (InciWeb) at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7152>.

A wildfire named the El Dorado Fire is burning in the San Bernardino Mountains near Yucaipa in San Bernardino County. As of 8:00 AM on Monday, the burn area was reported at 14,478 acres with 41% containment. Current information on the El Dorado Fire can be found on the Incident Information System at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7148/>.

In addition, smoke from fires in Northern California, Central California, Oregon, and Washington are also being transported south and may impact air quality in the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley.

Past and Current Smoke and Ash Impacts

Both the Bobcat Fire and the El Dorado fires are producing substantial amounts of smoke on Monday morning. On Monday morning, smoke from the El Dorado fire and the northern extent of the Bobcat Fire is being transported towards the northwest based on satellite imagery. However, smoke from the southern extent of the El Dorado fire being transported predominantly into cities along the 210 freeway and beyond. Falling ash has been reported downwind of the Bobcat and El Dorado fires throughout the South Coast Air Basin. Smoke from fires in Northern and Central California is still present in upper levels of the atmosphere this morning, which is reducing ventilation of polluted air out of the South Coast Air Basin.

Smoke impacts were widespread on Sunday with all South Coast AQMD continuous PM_{2.5} monitors recording 24-hour average concentrations exceeding federal air quality standards except for monitors in Indio and Crestline. Monitors throughout the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction measured Air Quality Index (AQI) levels in the **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** to **Unhealthy** categories throughout the day yesterday. **Very Unhealthy** values were recorded at times near the Bobcat and El Dorado fires with South Coast AQMD's temporary monitors and low-cost sensors. The fire is also producing ash particles that are small enough to be detected by South Coast AQMD's PM₁₀ monitors in addition to the smoke detected by the PM_{2.5} monitors. Visit <https://www.aqmd.gov/aqdata> to view current air quality conditions.

In any area impacted by smoke: If you smell smoke or see ash due to a wildfire, limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed or seeking alternate shelter, and avoiding vigorous physical activity. For more tips on protecting yourself during a wildfire, see South Coast AQMD's Wildfire Smoke & Ash Health & Safety Tips page: <http://www.aqmd.gov/wildfire-health-info-smoke-tips>

Forecasted Smoke and Ash Impacts

Most of the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction will experience smoke impacts with the highest AQI values occurring in direct proximity to the Bobcat and El Dorado Fires. Smoke transported from fires in Central and Northern California may also contribute to widespread elevated particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) concentrations. Smoke and ash impacts will be highly variable in both timing and location through Monday.

- Monday morning through Monday evening: Smoke from the Bobcat and El Dorado fires along with fires outside the region to a lesser extent will impact areas in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties throughout this period. As the day progresses, some clearing is expected throughout the region. However, clearing in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys will be delayed until at least early afternoon. Smoke will persist in the San Gabriel Mountains and the San Bernardino mountains throughout this period. Outflow from the El Dorado fire will begin to degrade air quality in the Coachella Valley in the evening hours.
- Overnight Monday through Tuesday morning: Winds will be light and variable overnight. Areas south of the Bobcat fire along the I-10 corridor from Glendale to West Covina along with the San Fernando Valley and the Santa Monica Mountains will likely see the highest particulate matter levels as smoke is likely to remain closer to the ground overnight. While AQI levels along the I-10 corridor will be like values recorded in the past several nights, impacts in the San Fernando Valley are expected to be more significant than previous nights. Smoke impacts from the El Dorado Fire will degrade air quality in western Riverside and San Bernardino Counties starting in the early morning hours. Other areas of the South Coast Air Basin could also see worsening smoke impacts throughout this period to a lesser extent.
- Tuesday afternoon: Onshore winds will start mid-day and will likely move smoke to the north and northeast into the mountains of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties and out of the South Coast Air Basin leading to some clearing. Modest smoke impacts may persist throughout the rest of the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley due to smoke from the Northern and Central California fires.

Areas of direct impacts and poor air quality may include all parts of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino Counties within the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction, as well as metropolitan Riverside County and Coachella Valley. **Very Unhealthy** or higher AQI levels due to PM2.5 concentrations are possible in areas of direct smoke impacts. Impacts will be highly variable throughout the day, impacting different parts of the region at different times.



Areas of direct impacts and poor air quality may include portions of:

- **Los Angeles County:** Central Los Angeles (Area 1), Northwest Coastal LA County (Area 2), Southwest Coastal LA County (Area 3), South Coastal LA (Area 4), Southeast LA County (Area 5), West San Fernando Valley (Area 6), East San Fernando Valley (Area 7), West San Gabriel Valley (Area 8), East San Gabriel Valley (Area 9), Pomona-Walnut Valley (Area 10), South San Gabriel Valley (Area 11), South Central Los Angeles County (Area 12), Santa Clarita Valley (Area 13), San Gabriel Mountains (Area 15)
- **Orange County:** Northern Orange County (Area 16), Central Orange County (Area 17), North Coastal Orange County (Area 18), Saddleback Valley (Area 19), Central Coastal Orange County (Area 20), Capistrano Valley (Area 21)
- **Riverside County:** Corona-Norco (Area 22), Metropolitan Riverside County (Area 23), Perris Valley (Area 24), Lake Elsinore (Area 25), Temecula Valley (Area 26), Anza Valley (Area 27), Hemet-San Jacinto Valley (Area 28), San Geronimo Pass (Area 29), Coachella Valley (Area 30)
- **San Bernardino County:** Northwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 32), Southwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 33), Central San Bernardino Valley (Area 34), East San Bernardino Valley (Area 35), West San Bernardino Mountains (Area 36), Central San Bernardino Mountains (Area 37), East San Bernardino Mountains (Area 38) South Coast AQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link: <http://www.aqmd.gov/advisory>

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